Development of pilotless spy plane by Pakistan

145. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports which appeared in a section of the press on the 14th December, 1989 regarding development of a pilotless spy plane by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what would be its likely impact on the security situation in the region?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Acquisition of sophisticated defence equipment across the border has security implications for the country. The implicaitons are studied in depth for planning effective measures for maintaining defence preparedness. However, details cannot be divulged in public interest.

Reopening of the Nandadevi sanctuary

146. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests for reopening the Nandadevi Sanctuary in the Garhwal Himalayas; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Nandadevi sanctuay was upgraded into a National Park by Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1980. The National Park area has now been included in the Biosphere Reserve formed in 1988. As per the management plan of the Biosphere Reserve there will be complete ban on the entry of people and domestic animals in the core zone, i.e. National Park area except for the staff if Biosphere Reserve and authorised researdhers. No request have been received by the Central Government to reopen the Nandadevi National Park.

Retail prices of sugar, vegetable oil and pulses

147. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the retail prices of sugar, vegetable oil and pulses as on 15-12-89; and

(b) what steps are to be taken to reduce prices and to ensure availability of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) A statement showing the retail prices of sugar as on 15-12-89 at selected centres is attached. (*See* below). Another statement showing the retail prices of pulses (gram, and tur, arhar) and vegetable oils (groundnut oil, mustard oil and vanaspati) as on 13-12-89 at selected centres is given in Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLII, Annexure No. 2].

(b) The main thrust of the strategy to contain the price rise and to ensure availability of essential commodities is to increase the production particularly those which are in short supply. The procurement of cereals items has been intensified. The public distribution system is being strengthened a part and parcel of overall process of planning and development. The imports of essential commodities like pulses, sugar and edible oils may be effected to augment the domestic availability of the commodities as and when necessary to check any abnormal rise in their prices. Besides price and availability monitoring mechanism is being strengthened, and the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures would be strictly enforced.